

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 22-34 have been examined. Claims 22, 23 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-20, 24-27 and 29-34 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner continues to object to the figures under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(a), as not showing the protrusion and/or groove of claims 22 and 28. As stated on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that Figs. 11(a) and 11(b) do not show induction member 49 to axially extend from a second ink supply path, across an open end, and into a first ink supply path. Since the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 11(a) appears to show that the protrusion, i.e. induction member 49, originates at the first ink supply path, Applicant submits that the Examiner is construing claims 22 and 28 such that the protrusion and/or groove must originate from the second ink supply path. Therefore, the Examiner maintains that Fig. 11(a) does not show the feature.

However, Applicant submits that the Examiner's interpretation unduly narrows the scope of the claims. For example, the claims recite that the protrusion and/or groove "axially extends from" the second ink supply path, across the first open end, and into the first ink supply path. Applicant submits that such feature is adequately shown by the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 11(a). For example, Applicant can assume that the claimed first open end is approximately located at the midpoint of the needle 48, the portion located above the midpoint is the first ink supply path, and the portion below the midpoint is the second ink supply path. If Applicant

picks any specified point of the induction member 49 (which is below the midpoint) as a starting point, then Fig. 11(a) shows that induction member 49 axially extends from the second ink supply path (i.e. from the chosen point), across the first open end, and into the first ink supply path. Therefore, Applicant submits that the non-limiting embodiment of Figs. 11(a) and (b) clearly disclose the above feature of claims 22 and 28.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,812,165 to Boyd et al (“Boyd”).

Claims 22, 23 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Boyd.

1. Claim 22

As noted above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 30 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, since Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 30 into claim 22, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

2. Claim 23

The Examiner has indicated that claim 20 is allowed. Therefore, since claim 23 is dependent upon claim 20, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

3. Claim 28

As noted above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 32 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, since Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 32 into claim 28, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

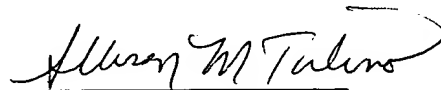
As previously stated, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-20, 24-27, 29, 31, 33 and 34 are allowed, and claims 30 and 32 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 30 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison M. (Bowles) Tulino
Registration No. 48,294
Date: December 8, 2003

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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